



Mind Over Monsters

Jennifer Harlow

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Beatrice Alexander is no ordinary schoolteacher--she can move objects with her mind, an embarrassing skill she hasn't yet mastered or embraced. After nearly killing her brother by accident, she joins the F.R.E.A.K.S. Squad, the Federal Response to Extra-Sensory and Kindred Supernaturals. This top-secret branch of the FBI combats ghosts, ghouls, and other monsters threatening humanity.

With her teammates--among them a handsome former-detective werewolf and an annoying Don Juan vampire who's dead-set on seducing her--Beatrice investigates her first case. Disgustingly dismembered bodies have turned up, bearing bite marks of the undead. Someone--or something--is raising a horde of hideous, bloodthirsty zombies. Armed with Bette, her trusty machete, Beatrice takes on the master of the flesh-devouring corpses, who's guarding a horrifying secret . . .

Featuring a team of monster hunters with unique paranormal abilities, the F.R.E.A.K.S. Squad Investigation series combines humor, suspense, and supernatural crime-fighting.

Mind Over Monsters Details

Date : Published October 8th 2011 by Midnight Ink (first published October 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9780738726670

Author : Jennifer Harlow

Format : Paperback 280 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Vampires, Mystery, Horror, Zombies, Romance

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From Reader Review Mind Over Monsters for online ebook

Roxanne Rhoads says

What a fabulous debut novel!

Harlow has created an awesome world where the good guys fight the bad- and they all happen to be "monsters"- or in this case the good guys are FREAKS- the Federal Response to Extra Sensory and Kindred Supernaturals.

Yup the government has their own top secret agency full of supernaturals that fight the paranormal bad guys.

Harlow's book is blend of Buffy the Vampire Slayer kick ass girl power style action, dry but witty humor, mystery, all wrapped in a paranormal book that is dark but fluffy at the same time.

For fans of romance- there's even something for you a love triangle featuring a vampire and a werewolf as Beatrice's love interests(I know not original but hey if it ain't broke don't fix it)- just don't expect any sizzling sex scenes because the love scenes never go past kissing (bummer if you like you books on the hotter side, good if you don't).

Warning there is a bit of gore for the horror fans- yes zombie killings and body dismemberments are described in gory detail.

So there's a little something for fans of all types of supernatural books. and it's an eclectic genre blend that works.

Elisa says

3.5 stars. A fun and silly paranormal Scooby gang mystery except with real zombies who eat a few people. The main character tries pretty dang hard, she fights for her right to fight quite a bit and runs headlong into danger a bit much, but she meant well. The story moved fast enough to keep me interested, though i confess I rolled my eyes once or twice. But it retained my interest and I had a rollicking good time reading it. It was darker than I expected from the cartoony cover.

Parajunkee says

PJV Quickie: 'Mind over Monsters' is one of my favorite surprise reads of the year. Fun, witty and a bit of sexy, the characters are over the top enjoyable and the story is interesting and suck-you-in good. Hello Jennifer Harlow. It's nice to meet you. Can I have some more?

Review: Jennifer Harlow introduces to a fun mix of characters and at their center is Beatrice Alexander. Beatrice is a schoolteacher who has an inexplicable talent of moving things with her mind. She has never been comfortable with her "curse", which is how she sees it and it becomes obvious that her curse is out-of-control when she almost kills her brother during a fight. Right after the incident she is recruited by a top-

secret branch of the FBI that is in place to fight everything that goes bump in the night. The group is called the F.R.E.A.K.S. Squad, The Federal Response to Extra-Sensory and Kindred Supernaturals. Beatrice is trained for combat and how to use her “talent” properly and then she is shipped to the middle of no-where (Kansas) to work in tandem with an eclectic group of FREAKS members. The team includes a former-detective, now were-wolf who Beatrice can’t seem to stop thinking about, a hotter than hot, but ridiculously annoying vampire, a cute goth who can teleport, a guy with psychometry, a girl with pyrokinesis and a few other talents thrown in here and there. It’s a crazy mix of FREAKS and Beatrice is afraid she made the wrong decision. Especially when she seems to be on the outside looking in, that is until the first case comes in and she finds out this mystery solving thing might be interesting. Someone seems to be raising zombies in a small town where everyone knows everyone’s business, but no one seems to be a suspect. Can they figure out who is doing this before it is too late and zombies descend and rip-apart the whole town?

Fun. Fun. Fun. ‘Mind over Monsters’ was gritty, fast-paced and very dramatic. Quips and fun scenes are mixed with emotionally charged heart-string pulling scenes. Beatrice is an epic character comparable to the like of Gini Koch’s Katherine Katt and Jeaniene Frost’s Catherine Crawford (must have a thing with cat’s this morning). It is an Urban Fantasy, Police Procedural that was just well put together and engaging until the end. I could not put this one down and had to start book two the moment I closed book one. I’m so pleased that I had the pleasure to read this series and look forward to more FREAKS from Harlow.

The beginning does have a choppy start, that I found almost a tad awkward, but I pushed through that very quickly and once I found the pace of the book there was no looking back.

Recommendations: Recommended for Urban Fantasy lovers, if you like your Urban Fantasy with a little humor this is the one for you. There are more adult themes, but this book is not something I would classify as R-rated, more like PG-13. If the early Anita Blake had a sense of humor...she would be Beatrice Alexander. I’m officially declaring myself Team Oliver!

Jennifer (BTH Reviews) says

4.5 Stars

Despite having been written in present tense, Mind Over Monsters is a great book. It's a fun mixture of horror, action, and comedy. The problem becomes apparent right away, and the pace is kept up the whole way through the book.

To me, this book falls into the urban fantasy category even though the settings are rural, because the book focuses on her government unit's efforts to investigate and contain a zombie outbreak. If the main character had been an untrained civilian, I still wouldn't categorize this book as cozy mystery because it is way too scary and graphic for most cozy mystery readers.

I liked that the characters did some normal police work in conjunction with using their special abilities. I also liked that the settings were different from the ones usually used in these types of books. When people think of paranormal and monsters, they don't typically think of Kansas and Colorado.

The main character Bea is sensitive but tough. She's brave and generally likable.

Mind Over Monsters was nearly perfect most of the way through. What made this less than a 5 star book to me was inconsistencies toward the end of the book. For example, she says she has a big chunk taken out of her leg, but then later says her worst injury was no bigger than a quarter. It didn't match up.

What really soured my opinion was when Bea named her machete. I absolutely can't stand it when characters name their weapons, vehicles, houses, or anything else that's inanimate. It's a common trope in urban fantasy, but it gets on my last nerve because it somehow makes the character seem fake to me. It makes me aware of the author trying to fit the character into a model of what an urban fantasy character should be like.

Now that I've had my rant, I will go back to my original statement that I did enjoy reading this book. As much as those little things bothered me, I can't allow them to ruin my enjoyment or overall opinion of the book. I will definitely read more books in this series when I get a chance.

If you haven't read Mind Over Monsters yet, and you like stories about kicking zombie and necromancer butts, I suggest giving it a try. It's a lot of fun to read.

Shanon says

My reviews can also be found at: <http://escapingwithfiction.blogspot.com/>

First I would like to thank the author, Jennifer Harlow, for sending me this book! I won it in a goodreads giveaway and she was nice enough to also send me an awesome bookmark, a list of songs on the playlist for the book, and a very nice card/note.

Let me begin this review by saying that this book pretty much rocked my socks! I love all things paranormal, so when I started in on this story I quickly discovered that I'd hit the motherload! In this book is the existence of every supernatural entity you could think of: ghouls, zombies, ghosts, trolls, necromancers, werewolves, vampires, ogres and so on. There are also several individuals with psychic abilities ranging anywhere from mediums to pyrokinetics--anything is possible in this book. Aside from the outstanding characters and creatures, this story is very creative and well-written. The storyline is also very fast-paced and the book is extremely hard to put down.

The protagonist and narrator, Beatrice, is my kind of gal; she's smart, witty and incredibly fun to read about, and seeing things through her perspective is a fun and exciting experience. One of the things I love most about her is how much she grows throughout the novel. She starts off being scared, unsure and isolated because of her gift as a telekinetic; but over the course of the story she ends up being more self-aware and a total badass!

Joining the "F.R.E.A.K.S. Squad" proves to be a very dangerous but rewarding experience for Bea. Her first assignment involves a grueling investigation to stop a murderous necromancer and this process involves a lot of blood, sweat and danger--and the wielding of a machete (yes, Bea's cool like that!). My favorite thing ever is a female character holding her own and kicking some serious butt, and that's exactly what Beatrice did.

Another reason to absolutely adore this book is the hot werewolf and the seductive vampire who are both interested in Bea. These two characters couldn't be more different, but they are both extremely desirable nonetheless. Will, the werewolf, is in charge of the "F.R.E.A.K.S." and he's got plenty going for him; he's smokin' hot, strong, and has a lot of integrity. This man also has a very boy-next-door vibe going on that's impossible to resist. Oliver, A.K.A. the most gorgeous man and vampire in the history of EVER, has a devilishly smooth way about him. At first I wasn't sure how to feel about him, because he's one of those guys that you should probably hate but he's just so darn charming that you can't. His interactions with Bea cracked me up every time, and I grew quite fond of him after some of his many layers were peeled back to reveal a kindness under that pompous exterior. It will no doubt be interesting to see how the tension between Bea and

these men carries out.

This book has quickly become a new favorite of mine and to say that I am eagerly awaiting the second book in this series is a serious understatement. I cannot wait to read more about Bea; with her sassy talk and overall amazing demeanor that will never cease to entertain. So, do yourself a favor and get your hands on this book, because you will not be disappointed!

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

This review is about a novel that held my attention even though the overall subject, horror, is not my chosen genre. In many ways, the clever, new to me, author was able to make the book a 'cozy' murder mystery, even though she was penning about Vampires, Werewolves, Psychokinetics and more.

Thinking it over, since I am interested in Paranormal like the psycho-fields...I guess it was a good fit for me.

The murders were appropriate to the perpetrators of the crimes, although, a bit gruesome for me, personally. They were cleverly plotted and had me turning the pages to see 'what happened.'

I liked the main characters, even felt compassion for their plights. The main sleuth, to us readers, is a psychokinetic, named Beatrice Alexander. Bea knew of her powers but was terrified and unable to control them. She truly becomes a champion of the innocent in this book. Bea also earns friends and a type of family that she never had a chance to have in her 'normal' life.

Will I buy her next novel? Oh yes. The goreiness isn't as off-putting as I feared due to good writing and excellent plots. If you enjoy mild monster action on a fast-pace...buy this book!

Jennifer says

Mind Over Monsters is very well written with characters I love and can't wait to read more about them. I've not read many books where the author titles each chapter but I really like it, cause it sets the tone for what's coming up and with a chapter entitled "A Machete Is a Girl's Best Friend" you know that the book is freaky funny.

Mind Over Monsters is a great urban fantast read with mystery, some gore (it's going to get messy when you start cutting up zombies), and there is also a little romance, that looks like it could turn out to be a really good triangle between Beatrice, Will and Oliver.

Think X-Men with paranormal creatures, where the guys are monsters too. The bad guy is a necromancer and the zombie graveyard scenes make me think of the old Anita Blake, you know when she solved mysteries before all the orgies got in the way.

Mind Over Monsters was a great debut novel from Harlow. I will without a doubt be checking out the next book in the series.

If you're a fan of the Jaz Parks series by Jennifer Rardin or the early books in the Anita Blake series by Laurell K. Hamilton you will enjoy Harlow's Mind Over Monsters.

Diane ~Firefly~ says

Great book. I wasn't sure what to expect going in, but I really enjoyed the story.

What I enjoyed:

- * Beatrice. Her life is changed when she saves a kid and ends up joining the FREAKS squad. Now she is the newbie and on an investigation that quickly gets out of hand and she holds her own.
- * The squad. They have very different personalities and powers and are all really interesting characters.
- * The mystery. They are called into a small town after two people are mutilated by "animals". Where it all leads is interesting.

What could have been better:

- * I hate love triangles and there are definitely two guys who want Beatrice. While she is saying she would never get with one of them (view spoiler) it is really up in the air.
-

Stephanie (Bookfever) says

The author, Jennifer Harlow, contacted me to review this book. First of all, a huuuuuge thanks to her for that. If she hadn't I probably wouldn't have read this amazing book any time soon. I almost didn't accept the review request even, but the synopsis drew me in. And also because she sent me the print book had a lot to do with it because I usually only get ebooks because I love in Belgium.

At first I wasn't sure I would like it, but after reading the guest post she send me, where she interviews the main character, Beatrice, I knew I would be hooked. The interview was really funny and cute too. Oliver
wink wink

The thing that really hooked me about this book was how there's this team of monster hunters, who are people with paranormal abilities themselves, even a vampire and a werewolf! So of course I started reading it right away once I received it and it sure didn't disappoint!

One of my favorite aspects in the book was the action. Lately I'm all about action in the books I read, without it I feel like it's getting boring. But luckily, Mind Over Monsters had lots of it.

I have to say at first I couldn't really get into the characte of Bea, but that was maybe just some weirdness on my part because later I really liked her. She's funny. We really do have the same humor and she's also really brave. I wouldn't dare do half the things she did!

There wasn't really that much romance and even though I love my portion of romance in a book, I wouldn't have wanted it otherwise. There was some flirting, some eye contact that makes you see fireworks but no kissing, yet, which was fine by me. But it's obvious that there is or will be a love triangle. The werewolf and the vampire. Will and Oliver. Personally I love Oliver the most. I love the way he calls Bea "Trixie" but Will sure is something too.

Another thing that was just perfectly written were the zombies. I could practically smell them!

I also loved guessing about who the bad guy was and I had a lot of theories myself, of course they were all wrong but still it was fun!

The end was so good! Just when I thought everything was over, BAM! something happens again. That was probably one of the major espects of me giving Mind Over Monsters 5 stars. I just love unexpected twists

and turns.

The only slightly negative thing that bothered me was the way Bea curses. Like, "Oh, fudge." Maybe that's just part of Bea's character but I'm afraid it's just not my cup of tea. Other than that I really did like her though.

All in all Mind Over Monster was a fantastic read. Funny, cute, witty, action filled and well written. I am definitely looking forward to reading To Catch A Vampire, the second book in the series, which will be available on september 8th 2012.

Cathy says

It was cute. It was really more of a 2.5 star book because of all of the eye-rolling I had to do, but the series has potential and the narrative had a nice, smooth style. I like that the author is a fan of Jennifer Crusie and Sue Grafton but she didn't do such a good job of imitating either. The humor wasn't so bad, but the mystery was pathetic. Really awful, it made them all look just stupid. And the romance and the agent work suffered from the same issue - suddenly this ordinary and relatable woman is perfect. All of her life she's been the awkward, overweight, out-of-shape, plain-Jane outsider. We like her because she likes the things we like: reading, cake, movies, TV, whatever. She's supposed to be us. Now suddenly she's a hotshot agent who is fearless under pressure, does all sorts of physical things that are just ridiculous (her arms would fall off after swinging that machete a few times) and is planning a mission after two days on the job when everyone else, including the teenager, has at least three more years experience than she has and she barely even knows what the others are capable of. And instantly she's irresistible to the stunning guy who usually rejects everyone and to the other stunning guy who normally uses everyone. And at the end one of the guys declare that she's a goddess! She has more compassion, is braver, and has more strength of character than anyone he has ever known. It's just too much.

And why did the small town with barely any stores have a butcher shop, who has butcher shops anymore?

I like a fantasy but I prefer more touchstone to reality thrown in there. Other than having a temper and occasional frizzy hair, Bea is just too perfect, the guys are too perfect, and the story wasn't nearly perfect enough. But... it has heart. I still liked Bea, I liked her compassion for the girl. I don't know. It has potential. I know the romance stuff is partly a matter of taste, a lot of people like these instant attraction stories with perfect guys, I just prefer stories where the romance develops over a time frame that feels more realistic and guys who have more quirks and depth. But the guys do have potential, they aren't caricatures. And I like the rest of the team. And the author's writing style is engaging. I'll give the next book a try and hope for a better, smarter mystery and more realistic character development.

Karissa says

I got a signed advanced reading copy of this book at Book Expo America. Harlow was great, very fun to talk to. This was a decent book; it is one of those fluffy and fun sort of paranormal books. If you are into that you will like this book; it was a fun read just not all that original.

Beatrice isn't your normal elementary school teacher; she is telekinetic. After she almost kills her brother by

accident she joins the F.R.E.A.K Squad (Federal Response to Extra-Sensory and Kindred Supernaturals Squad). She's been trained and now she is moving in with her fellow F.R.E.A.K.s just in time to help them fight off some zombies and an evil necromancer.

This is one of those books that is a fun light read but not super original. If you are a fan of the lighter side of the paranormal genre; you should find this book entertaining. By lighter side I mean authors like Molly Harper, Katie MacAlister, Nicole Peeler and Jolie Wilkins.

Beatrice is one of those girls who is a good girl (schoolteacher) trying to fit in with a paranormal crowd. Beatrice doesn't necessarily like fighting, but she tries to be as tough as she can to prove herself to her fellow FREAK squad members. She's your every day girl trying to learn how to kick some serious butt.

Like many of these types of books, this book has a love triangle featuring a vampire (Oliver) and a werewolf (Will). There are some steamy scenes between Beatrice and both of these male leads; although things never get past kissing. Again this was fun, the male leads are well done, but nothing we haven't seen before.

It was interesting how the author paired paranormal abilities like teleportation and telekinesis, with paranormal species like werewolves and vampires. It gave the book kind of a paranormals with super-heroes twist to it.

One place where this book does differ from the above-mentioned authors is in the goriness. The goriness of dismembered human bodies is described in great detail; so just a "beware" for those with weak stomachs.

The writing is well done and the book easy to read. The book presents the mystery behind these zombies and wraps that up nicely.

Overall this is a good read. It is well-written, had likable characters, and was fun to read. It was a nice diversion, but there wasn't anything here that was super creative or all that different from a number of other authors out there that do this kind of light, fluffy, fun girl-next-door meets paranormal baddies. So if you are really into light paranormal you might want to give this book a read. I personally enjoy books like Nicole Peeler's Jane True series more because the races you meet are more creative and the world building is more extensive. I also think Molly Harper's Jane Jameson series is funnier. But this series does have a sort of fun paranormal girl next door meets gory violent zombies vibe to it that is fun and entertaining.

Lighthearted says

The premise of this book is intriguing. Beatrice's fellow squad members include a reticent werewolf, an obnoxious vampire, an elegant pyrokinetic, a teleporting teenager, a baby-faced psychometric and a blind medium. Bea's first case with the group involves evidence of a necromancer in the small town of Bridge Stone, Colorado: he or she is raising zombies, but why and can they stop him before anyone else falls victim?

I wanted to like this book. It's a first novel and there is definitely potential: I like the idea of a top-secret team of crime-fighters with unique paranormal and supernatural abilities. I like the basic cast of characters.

I don't like Beatrice, at least not yet. She's 26 years old but she reads more like a teenager who's just discovered boys. Yes, I know her romantic experience has been limited, but I think Harlow overdid the number of "OMG, our hands touched!" moments. Not only were there too many of those moments, they were too vividly described; when Bea first meets Will, she opens the door and we're treated to 3 paragraphs

of her thoughts before she says anything and another 2 paragraphs before he replies. The paragraphs may lessen but sadly, this is how most of her interactions with Will and Oliver are portrayed: too much attention focused on telling us exactly what girlish thoughts are streaming through Bea's mind and not enough attention on simply sketching a scene and letting the reader feel it.

While I enjoy a vicarious glimpse into the life of a newly-discovered "it girl", Harlow overdoes this as well. Rather than draw me further into the story, it distances me from it. Right off the bat, the girl whom no one noticed before has two hotties vying for her attention and one of those hotties is so traumatized by the death of his wife years before that he's been completely indifferent to women since—until he first lays eyes upon Bea, that is. It doesn't ring true: a guy like that would need time to let his guard down.

Not only has Bea suddenly become a hottie-magnet, she's also at the top of the game on the Squad despite being the newest recruit—and even though she apparently needs 3 1/2 pages of clues before she can figure out she's talking to a vampire. Ack—if she's going to be super-quick with guessing what kind of supernatural is most likely to be involved with a particular crime, she should have pegged the vampire within the first paragraph of their meeting. Aside of that minor detail, I like seeing the Ugly Duckling turn into the beautiful swan, the caterpillar turn into a butterfly, but I want to see the transformation happen. The transformation is what makes the story interesting and so far, Harlow has skipped that step. She does show promise in her treatment of the relationship between Bea and Oliver—their scenes at the end of the book were excellent and might be enough to persuade me to give the next book in the series a shot. Untitled as of yet, it is scheduled to come out this fall.

M.W. says

I read the first three books in three days, so I'm writing this knowing what will happen in those next books as well. These were all enjoyable reads. It was so easy to get lost in the story.

I should start by saying I really HATE zombies, I really do. So I really hated reading about them and skipped the part where-through a vision-we feel what it's like to be ripped apart by zombies. Not fun. I also found it very unrealistic that there were so many and wanted it to be over. When she then used her powers to annihilate them all I was relieved, but when more started appearing I was like...WHAT? First of all, how many bodies does this graveyard have? Second of all, didn't they all just pop up from their graves and then got destroyed? Third of all, whoever was summoning them should be a little worn out, no? I hate it when baddies are all-powerful and would have liked to see some weakness in him, allowing them to investigate more instead of battling zombies.

However, what kept me going was the main character. I liked her, even if I didn't get her fascination with the werewolf. He was just a broody prick with issues he needed to solve. Oliver, on the other hand, WOW. What an amazing character. It's been a while since I've read a character that made me sad that I was closing the book. I love him so much and zombies or not, he's one of the main reasons I loved reading on.

It is therefore no surprise that I read the other two books as well. Two is definitely my favourite. Three a little less because I can see the main character gravitate towards Will and that was very disappointing. I got the feeling she had this idea of love and her ideal man from before she embraced her telekinetic self and was projecting that on him, instead of going for what she deep down really wanted. I mean, for one thing, she really wants kids and Oliver can't give her that. But it made me wary to read the fourth book and I haven't yet done so. I might start again with book number five, but I'm not sure yet. I do hope there will be more to come. I know from book number four on the books are self-published and there are loads of spelling errors in them, so not sure if I want to mess up my good opinion on this series and end on a high. I will SO miss

Oliver, though. I'll find a way to incorporate a similar character in one of my novels one day.

Lori {Romancing the Dark Side} says

Romancing the Dark Side Review:

A light-hearted and fun unconventional tale of the paranormal where two worlds of monsters collide!

Beatrice Alexander is an ordinary school teacher with extraordinary powers. She psychokinetic and knows the ability to move objects with her mind isn't exactly "normal" so she tends to keep to herself. When she accidentally hurts those closest to her, Beatrice is approached by a secret organization of the FBI, the F.R.E.A.K.S., the Federal Response to Extra Sensory and Kindred Supernaturals division (clever, right?) and decides to leave books and teaching behind to dedicate her time hunting down monsters. In F.R.E.A.K.S. Beatrice has found a family and acceptance, even among the sexy vampire and werewolf members. With her training complete she's ready to get out and kick some monster butt, but her first mission to find a necromancer creating zombies will have Beatrice questioning her choice to become the F.R.E.A.K. she's tried so hard to hide.

Mind Over Monsters is a stellar debut in urban fantasy! I was surprised at the cheeky humor in this book but it totally works against the dark urban fantasy backdrop. The author chose a diverse group of characters that perfectly mesh, even with their different personalities, a werewolf and vampire sleeping under the same roof, who would of thought?! There's always a bit of gore when it comes to dealing with zombies but I was never disgusted enough to put the book down! Beatrice is a fantastic leading lady who has some of the best one-liners, but also kicks ass when the occasion calls for it, her narrative voice really draws you into the story. My favorite element to this story has to be the awkward but intriguing love triangle developing between Will, the werewolf, Beatrice and Oliver, the vampire. The chemistry between these characters is electric and the author knows just how to keep it interesting with the always-present tension.

Jennifer Harlow has created a brand new dramatic world of monsters with plenty of mystery, an exceptional heroine and a compelling cast of characters. The story never fails to entertain and keeps you engrossed with all the action and suspense. Mind Over Monsters is a paranormal mystery that includes hungry zombies in graveyards, ghouls, close encounters with a werewolf, vampire attacks and a lesson in zombie babysitting...why wouldn't you want to read it for yourself?! Having us wait until Fall 2012 for the sequel is just torture!

{Book courtesy of Bewitching Book Tours for review}

Jessa says

Mind Over Monsters was A LOT of fun! I would rate it 4.5 stars if I could, but when deciding which side of the .5 the rating should fall on, I leaned toward 4, but it was indeed a great book!

This book features so many different monsters! You see vampires, werewolves, necromancers, ghouls, zombies, people who can create fire, move things with their mind, teleport, etc - honestly a possessed easter bunny could have shown up and I wouldn't have been surprised. This book really reminded me of X-Men and when I told my husband about it, he thought that it sounded similar to League of Extraordinary Gentlemen and I tend to agree! If you are a fan on those comics/cartoons/movies, etc then you will likely

love this book.

I really enjoyed that the main character, Beatrice, had her imperfections. In some ways, her inner workings reminded me of reading a chick-lit book, but she also kicks some serious butt, which makes it so unusual, inventive and refreshing. The main character - an elementary school teacher - doesn't seem to realize how strong or talented she is and I think that is something that plagues a lot of people, particularly women, so I could relate on that level. I also loved some of the other characters, particularly Will! For some reason throughout the book, I pictured Will as the actor Patrick Wilson, whom I think is so adorable! I was disappointed that their relationship didn't evolve more in this book (view spoiler), but at the same time I appreciated that she didn't turn into some lovesick woman who can't see past the man she is falling for.

As is the case in almost every book I have read this year, there is a love triangle. Not only do Will and Beatrice have a strong attraction to each other, there is also Oliver, who is trying to bed Beatrice. While initially Oliver irritated the heck out of me, it did seem that his intentions became more pure throughout the book and I think he has actually developed true feelings for Beatrice. I for one am Team Will all the way though!

I think the author did a great job with describing the different powers the characters had, as well as with character development (view spoiler). I found myself having a strong reaction to many of the characters - some I loved, some I could not stand - but that shows true skill in my opinion.

As for why this is only 4-stars and not 5-stars...ah, I hate to criticize this book in any way, as I so thoroughly enjoyed it, but it has to be said. I really felt some of the dialogue was **SOOOOO** cheesy. There are things I cannot even imagine my grandma saying, they are that lame. I cannot buy a grown woman would say such ridiculous phrases (I will need to go skim through it again and edit this later with a few examples - you will get a laugh). There were also spots in the story where it didn't feel real. I would compare the problem to this: when you are watching a movie and there are characters acting so superbly that you believe that these actors are these people they are portraying, but then walks in someone who delivers the lines so poorly that it temporarily ruins the moment, because you immediately realize that this is a person who is acting, just reading a line and not very well. It is strange to think a book could cause this feeling, but it really did. Some of the lines were so awkward and seemed so out-of-character that it felt like they were lifted from a crime TV show and the character in the book is just delivering them because she is supposed to; there were times it genuinely felt like Beatrice was acting. Given the author seems to be very talented, it may be possible that the cheesy and at times unbelievable dialogue were intentional, but for me, it was a distraction and not a good one. The only other thing I did not like about the book - and this holds no weight in my rating - was the cover. I actually had it sitting around for awhile because the cover didn't interest me at all. I am hoping there is a different artist for the next book, as I think covers these days are more important than ever and the bar has been raised so high.

So, that being said, I do highly recommend this book, despite the flaws, I really enjoyed reading it. I think this is a very promising first entry in what will likely be a very entertaining series and I CANNOT WAIT for the next book to come out!
